

Message Text

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SUBJ: GOVERNMENT DAILY SAYS THANKS

1. THE GKR'S OFFICIAL FRENCH-LANGUAGE DAILY

LE REPUBLICAIN PUBLISHED THE FOLLOWING EDITORIAL ON MARCH 24;
HEADED, "IN ALL JUSTICE..."

2. "THE SUSPENSE RESULTING FROM THE UNCERTAINTY OVER THE GRANT-
ING BY THE AMERICAN CONGRESS OF SUPPLEMENTARY AID TO THE KHMER
REPUBLIC AND TO SOUTH VIETNAM, AND THE PESSIMISTIC VIEWS HELD BY
VARIOUS MEMBERS OF THE TWO CHAMBERS IN THE UNITED STATES, HAVE
IN RECENT DAYS INCITED THE DIFFERENT NEWSPAPERS OF THE CAPITAL--
AND WE TOO, LET US ADMIT IT -- TO CRITICIZE THE AMERICAN SYSTEM
AND ITS VARIABILITY OF POLICY WHICH CONSTITUTES, IN FACT, AN
ABSENCE OF A POLICY WORTHY OF THE NAME.

3. "BUT IN SPITE OF ALL, WE CANNOT FORGET THE GREAT
LEADERS OF THE EXECUTIVE, AS WELL AS A GOOD NUMBER OF
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OUR AMERICAN FRIENDS, WHO HAVE WORKED TIRELESSLY AND EVEN AT THE PERIL OF THEIR LIVES IN SUPPORT OF THE CAUSE OF THE KHMER REPUBLIC. WE WILL THEREFORE ONLY RENDER THEM JUSTICE IN EXPRESSING OUR DEEP GRATITUDE. FOR HOW CAN WE SHOW OURSELVES UNGRATEFUL TOWARD THOSE WHO HELPED US WITH SUCH ABSOLUTE DEVOTION, BY ALL THE MEANS AT THEIR DISPOSAL, WITH THAT SPIRIT OF SELF-DENIAL AND GENEROSITY WORTHY OF THE MOST GLORIOUS TRADITIONS OF GREAT AMERICA?

4. "OUR TRIBUTE WILL BE ADDRESSED FIRST TO THE EXECUTIVE, TO THE ENTIRE EXECUTIVE, AND IN PARTICULAR TO PRESIDENT GERALD FORD AND TO MR. HENRY KISSINGER. BOTH, AT THEIR LEVEL, WHICH IS VERY HIGH BUT WITH ROOM FOR MANEUVER WHICH IS UNFORTUNATELY NARROW, EMPLOY ALL THE EFFORT HUMANLY POSSIBLE TO PLEAD OUR CAUSE BEFORE CONGRESS. ALL THE WORTHWHILE ARGUMENTS HAVE BEEN PRESENTED AND DEVELOPED. WE DO NOT OVERLOOK THE IMMENSE COURAGE OF THESE GREAT STATESMEN.

5. "CERTAINLY, THEY DO NOT PUT THEIR LIVES IN DANGER, BUT THEY ARE RISKING IN OUR DEFENSE THEIR ENTIRE POLITICAL CAREERS. IN CASE THE CONGRESS SHOULD HARDEN THE NEGATIVE POSITION IT HAS SEEN FIT TO ADOPT, AND EVEN MORE IF AMERICAN PUBLIC OPINION, GREATLY INFLUENCED BY THE IMPORTANT PRESS OF THE STYLE OF "PARIS MATCH", SHOULD FOLLOW THE ATTITUDE OF THE CONGRESSMEN, THE NEW EXECUTIVE RESULTING FROM THE ELECTIONS OF NOVEMBER 1976 COULD WELL OBLIGE MESSRS. FORD, KISSINGER AND OTHER SENIOR OFFICIALS TO RETIRE FROM THE POLITICAL SCENE.

6. "OUR TRIBUTE GOES NEXT TO THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR TO THE KHMER REPUBLIC, MR. JOHN GUNTHER DEAN, AND TO HIS COLLEAGUES, BOTH MILITARY AND CIVILIAN. IN FACT, DURING FIVE YEARS AMERICAN REPRESENTATIVES IN CAMBODIA HAVE MADE EXTRAORDINARY EFFORTS TO SUPPORT OUR COUNTRY, AND PARTICULARLY TO BRING TO IT SIGNIFICANT ECONOMIC AND MILITARY AID. THEIR MERIT IS PARTICULARLY GREAT TODAY WHEN THEY ARE FURNISHING ALMOST THE ENTIRE RESUPPLY OF PHNOM PENH AND OF OUR ARMED FORCES BY MEANS OF THE AIRLIFT WHICH, LET US NOT FORGET, IS EXTREMELY COSTLY.
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EACH KILOGRAM OF FREIGHT TRANSPORTED COMES TO THE EQUIVALENT IN U.S. DOLLARS OF 4,000 RIELS, NOT INCLUDING THE COST OF THE MERCHANDISE.

7. "WE WANT TO INCLUDE IN THE SAME TRIBUTE THE PRIVATE AMERICAN AVIATION COMPANIES AND THEIR SPLENDID CREWS, WHICH ASSURE THE OPERATION OF THE AIRLIFT FROM

DAWN TILL DUSK. WHATEVER MAY BE THE RAIN OF ROCKETS
AND SHELLS WHICH STRIKE POCHENTONG (TODAY THERE WERE
NOT VERY MANY; THANKS TO THE JOINT EFFORTS OF OUR
AMERICAN FRIENDS, THE GOVERNMENT AND OUR NEW CHIEF OF
STAFF OF FANK, THE IMPROVEMENT OF THE SITUATION HAS
BEEN SPECTACULAR), THE AIRCRAFT OF THE AIRLIFT, DIS-
CHARGE AND TAKE OFF WITHOUT INTERRUPTION.

8. "OF COURSE, THE EMPLOYEES OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY,
ESPECIALLY THOSE OF AID, REMAIN IN PLACE ON THE RUNWAY
TO RECEIVE THE AIRCRAFT AND SUPERVISE THE OPERATIONS.
IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT THESE COURAGEOUS MEN RISK
THEIR LIVES, AND THAT THE AMERICAN AIRLINE COMPANIES
RISK (ABOVE ALL IN RECENT WEEKS) THE LOSS OF ULTRA-
MODERN AIRCRAFT, OF WHICH SOME ARE WORTH AROUND TEN
MILLION DOLLARS.

9. "TO ALL THESE HEROIC AMERICANS WHO RISK
THEIR CAREERS OR THEIR LIVES, IF NOT BOTH AT THE SAME
TIME, TO DEFEND A LITTLE COUNTRY WHICH IS THE VICTIM
OF AGGRESSION, IN ORDER TO PERMIT IT TO NEGOTIATE WITH
HONOR, WE WISH TO ANNOUNCE THAT OUR GRATITUDE WILL
BE ETERNALLY THEIRS; MAY THEY SUCCEED."
DEAN

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